

PCOC Position Statement: Minneapolis Police Department Body Worn Camera Draft Policy

Background

- At the **June 8, 2015**, Police Conduct Oversight Commission (PCOC) meeting, Mayor Betsy Hodges and MPD Chief Janeé Harteau requested that PCOC conduct policy research on law enforcement use of body cameras and gather community input on the use of body cameras. On **June 8, 2015**, the PCOC unanimously moved to conduct best practices research and hold a series of community meetings.
- In **June 2015**, the PCOC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MPD in relation to a Department of Justice body camera grant application, agreeing to “solicit[] public feedback in regards to the use of the cameras, the accompanying body camera policy, and any other related issues the PCOC feels is pertinent to the body camera implementation.” MPD was awarded the grant in the amount of \$600,000. *See Memorandum of Understanding.*
- From **June-August 2015**, the PCOC conducted research into best practices and other departments’ policies while simultaneously gathering community input via three community listening sessions, written submissions, and a survey. *See Body Camera Implementation Research and Study.*
- On **September 8, 2015**, the PCOC unanimously voted to approve the Body Camera Policy Research and Study, including all recommendations. The Study and Recommendation were duly submitted to MPD on **September 10, 2015**, and presented to the City Council’s Public Safety, Civil Rights & Emergency Management Committee on **September 30, 2015**.
- On **March 1, 2016**, MPD provided the PCOC with its draft policy, including explanations for the PCOC recommendations that it chose not to include in the draft policy. *See MPD Draft Policy and MPD Explanations.*

PCOC Position on MPD Body Worn Camera Draft Policy

We urge Chief Harteau to implement the Recommendations included in the PCOC's Body Camera Implementation Research and Study. Mayor Hodges and Chief Harteau requested that we conduct research into use of body cameras in Minneapolis. It is incumbent upon Mayor Hodges and Chief Harteau to therefore seriously consider the resulting Recommendations. The Recommendations are informed by community input and extensive best practices research and have been supported by the community during MPD's recent community listening sessions.

Specifically, we are concerned that MPD's draft policy does not include the following recommendations:

1. The policy should require officers to obtain consent from civilians being filmed during "consensual encounters," or in other words, in any situation where the civilian is not subject to law enforcement control. *See page 36 of the Body Camera Implementation Research and Study.*
2. Supervisors should conduct periodic monthly reviews of body camera footage to ensure compliance with policy. *See page 37.*
3. If a complaint of police misconduct is filed and an officer has not activated his or her body camera in accordance with policy, an evidentiary presumption should exist against that officer during the investigation of the complaint. *See pages 38 and 40.*
4. Body camera footage should not be viewed until after an officer has completed his or her report or statement. *See page 40.*
5. The policy should include a procedure for making revisions to the body camera policy, and MPD should present any revisions under consideration to the PCOC. *See page 43.*
6. The discipline level for failure to follow the body camera policies should be defined within MPD's discipline matrix. *See page 44.*

The citizens of Minneapolis deserve a policy that will create trust and bolster accountability. If MPD is to strengthen its relationship with the community, it must implement these or similar recommendations prior to the roll-out of the body camera program.

We invite Chief Harteau to meet and discuss implementation of our Recommendations.

Signed:

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